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REMARKS

With this response, Applicants have amended the specification to move the "Summary of the Invention" heading and have amended claims 9, 15, 20 and 21, all of which is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Thus, claims 1-21 are presently pending. Consideration and allowance of each of these claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants have taken great care to avoid raising any issues which would require further consideration, no claims have been added, to avoid adding any new matter, and to avoid requiring any additional searching. As such, Applicants respectfully request entry of this response in its entirety because it at least places the above-identified application in better form for appeal, if not outright allowance.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification by moving the "Summary of the Invention" heading from between paragraphs [0009] and [0010] so it is located between paragraphs [0008] and [0009] to place the application in better condition for allowance by putting the heading where Applicants' disclosure summarizing the invention properly begins.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her careful examination and allowance of claims 1-8 (*see* Office Action dated August 25, 2005). Applicants' wish to recapitulate the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in words different than the claim limitations found in claim 1 that were included by the Examiner in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance to provide a better understanding of Applicants' invention.

More specifically, with regard to independent claim 1, Applicants' respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to disclose or teach a method of managing communications module operation where the communications module distributes terminal messages from a detachable microcircuit between the communications module and the terminal to limit communications on the connection between the communications module and the terminal as well as the message processing activity required of the terminal microprocessor. As a result, the quantity of

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information flowing to the terminal via the connection between communications module and terminal is minimized and the message processing activity of the terminal microprocessor is reduced. Terminal processing power is optimized and module-terminal communication efficiency is improved.

With regard to independent claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record does not disclose or teach a communications device that includes an extension module with a detachable microcircuit, means for communicating with a terminal, and means for filtering microcircuit messages that cooperates with the communication means in a manner that limits the communications on a connection between the module and terminal along with terminal microprocessor message processing activity. The microcircuit message filtering means enables messages from the microcircuit to be communicated to the terminal for terminal processor processing only as needed thereby minimizing module-terminal connection traffic and reducing message processing required of the terminal microprocessor. Such a device constructed in accordance with the claimed invention advantageously thereby also minimizes energy use as a result.

Remarks in Support of Patentability

Claims 9-14

Applicants have amended claim 9 to include limitations from independent claim 1 and independent claim 7 that have been indicated as reciting allowed subject matter such that claim 9 is presented in better form for appeal and is believed to place this claim in condition for allowance. By adding the requirement to claim 9 that the communications module processor is configured to filter messages from the detachable microcircuit, claim limitations of like scope to those found in allowed claim 7 have been added to claim 9. By adding the requirement to claim 9 that the messages are distributed between the module and the terminal to limit module-terminal communications on the communications link therebetween and limit processing activity of the terminal processor related to message processing, claim limitations of like scope to those found in allowed claim 1 have been added to claim 9. For at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 7

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distinguish over the prior art, claim 9 is believed to distinguish over Heinonen, U.S. Patent No. 5,887,266, whether combined with Kowalski, WO 98/59319, or any other reference of record, including Bruner, U.S. Patent No. 6,141,564 and/or Erikson, U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018.

Because these limitations added by amendment are already found in claims 1 and 7, no new issues are believed to be raised by Applicants and because it is believed that the scope of claim 9 is at least as narrow as either of claims 1 and 7 no new searching is believed required. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is believed presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-14 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 9 and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 9 is believed allowable. In addition, each of dependent claims 10-14 are believed to independently recite patentable subject matter. As such, allowance of each of claims 10-14 are also respectfully requested.

Claims 15-19

Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to include limitations found in allowed claims 1-8 thereby believed to place claim 15 in condition for allowance. Since the claim limitations of claim 15, including those added by amendment, are found in one or more of allowed claims 1-8, no new issues are believed raised and no additional searching is believed required. For at least these reasons, claim 15 is believed to distinguish over the prior art, is believed to be presented in condition for allowance, and respectfully request its allowance.

Claims 16-19 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 15 and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 15 is believed allowable. In addition, each of dependent claims 16-19 are believed to independently recite patentable subject matter. As such, allowance of each of claims 16-19 are also respectfully requested.

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Claims 20-21

Applicants have amended independent claim 20 to include limitations found in one or more allowed claims 1-8 thereby believed to place claim 20 in condition for allowance. Since the claim limitations of claim 20, including those added by amendment, are found in one or more of allowed claims 1-8, no new issues are believed raised and no additional searching is believed required. For at least these reasons, claim 20 is believed presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 has been amended to place it in better condition for allowance. In addition, claim 21 depends from independent claim 20 and is believed allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 20 is believed allowable. In addition, claim 21 is believed to independently recite patentable subject matter. As such, allowance of claim 21 is also respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

No fees are believed to be due with this communication. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview with applicant's attorney would facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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